

Message Text

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52

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 NIC-01 AGR-20 EB-11 OMB-01 STR-08

COME-00 TRSE-00 /146 W

----- 093939

R 031410 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1397

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0204

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, GR, UR

SUBJECT: PROTEST AGAINST SOVIET ENERGY PLANT AT PHILIPPI

REF: (A) THESSALONIKI A- 12, 2/23/73 (B) THESSALONIKI 124,

(C) DEPARTMENT' S A-2545

1. "MAKEDONIA" OF APRIL 3 CARRIED OPEN TELEGRAM FROM METROPOLITAN AMVROSIOI OF ELEFTEROUPOLIS STRONGLY OPPOSING CONSTRUCTION OF SOVIET ENERGY PLANT BASED ON PHILIPPI PEAT DEPOSITS. MESSAGE STATED THAT INHABITANTS OF AREA REQUESTED HIS INTERCESSION TO OBTAIN CANCELLATION OF PROJECT. ACCORDING TO AMVROSIOI, 4,000 AREA RESIDENTS CONSIDER PROJECT AGAINST "OWN BEST INTERESTS" AND ARE NOT PREPARED TO SACRIFICE 12,500 ACRES OF "MOST FERTILE LAND" FOR "INSIGNIFICANT BENEFITS OVER 20 YEARS PERIOD". TELEGRAM CONCLUDED WITH REQUEST FOR PERSONAL INTERVENTION BY PRIME MINISTER TO POSTPONE EXPROPRIATION PROCEDURES UNTIL GOVERNMENT CONDUCTS FURTHER REVIEW.

2. PAPER ALSO REPORTS TWO SEPARATE PROTEST TELEGRAMS SIGNED BY "ALMOST ALL" INHABITANTS OF TWO VILLAGES IN AREA OF PEAT DEPOSITS. TELEGRAMS SPECIFICALLY REQUEST THAT PM POSTPONE PRELIMINARY EXPROPRIATION HEARINGS IN KAVALA

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COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE.

3. COMMENT: EARLIER NOTICE IN PAPERS OF MARCH 24 INDICATED THAT PUBLIC POWER CORPORATION (PPC) HAD INITIATED FROM THEIR REGULAR FORCES

TO WORK WITH GUINEAN VOLUNTEERS IN THIS OPERATION AND ARE REPORTEDLY TRAINING 20,000 MEN IN SOUTH AFRICA, MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA. THEIR INVASION WAS TO HAVE BEEN ON APRIL 5, BUT DUE TO A LACK OF " CERTAIN INFORMATION" IT WAS POSTPONED UNTIL MAY, WEATHER PERMITTING. FRANCE WILL ALSO BE ASKED TO PRESSURE THE MALIANS AND THE IVORIANS TO REFUSE OVERFLIGHT TO AIRCRAFT FROM ALGERIA, LIBYA AND NIGERIA.

4. THE AUTHOR OF THE LETTER CLAIMS TWO UNNAMED MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT ARE INVOLVED WITH THE PLOTTERS. AN UNNAMED " MEMBER OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT" IS ALSO ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS VICE PRESIDENT IN THE GOVERNMENT THAT WILL COME TO POWER AFTER SEKOU TOURE' S OVERTHROW.

5. ALSO OF INTEREST ARE COMMENTS THE AUTHOR MAKES ON SIERRA LEONE AND HIS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST TWO " NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES." THE SIAKA STEPHENS GOVERNMENT IS DESCRIBED AS A WEAK REGIME WHOSE DAYS ARE NUMBERED. " IMPERIALIST AGENTS" ARE ALLEGEDLY INSTALLED AT ALL LEVELS OF THE SIERRA LEONEAN GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL FALL IN A " FEW DAYS" BECAUSE " FOREIGN EMBASSIES" HAVE ALREADY CORRUPTED SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION. RADIO BUT NOT PARTY NEWSPAPER CARRIED FURTHER ALLEGATION THAT DELEGATION OF PLOT GROUP MEMBERS PLUS A PORTUGUESE HAVE CONTACTED CHIEFS OF STATE OF TWO COUNTRIES NEIGHBORING TO GUINEA WHICH ARE OBVIOUSLY SENEGAL AND THE IVORY COAST. ONE NEIGHBOR ALLEGEDLY TOLD THEM HE DOES NOT MIND WHO RULES IN GUINEA AS LONG AS THERE IS A CHANGE TO SOMEONE WITH WHOM HE CAN WORK. THE OTHER WANTED A GOVERNMENT IN CONAKRY THAT WOULD CATER TO HIM AND ALLOW HIM TO EXTEND HIS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT GUINEA.

6. COMMENT: AT FIRST SIGHT THIS LETTER IS LIKELY TO BE DISMISSED AS JUST ANOTHER PIECE OF JUNK MAIL DEALING WITH PLOTS WHICH WOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY ONLY BY SOMEONE SUFFERING FROM AN ACUTE PERSONALITY DISORDER. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE HISTORY OF THE RUMORS AND PREDICTIONS PRECEDING THE 1970 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVASION, THE CONTINUED USE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA AS A SAFE- HAVEN AND BASE OF OPERATION FOR THE PAIGC AND THE DICTATORIAL NATURE OF THE GUINEAN REGIME IT IS NOT UNUSUAL FOR SEKOU TOURE TO TAKE A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE. HE MAKES

CONTINUED USE OF RUMORS, FACTS AND DISINFORMATION. THIS
" LETTER FROM PARIS" SERVES MANY ENDS. IT HELPS MAINTAIN
AND JUSTIFY A CONTINUED STATE OF ALERT, IT HELPS RALLY A
LARGELY DISINTERESTED POPULATION ROUND A REGIME WHICH IT
BLAMES FOR HIGH PRICES AND ECONOMIC STAGNATION, IT TELLS THE
PEOPLE WHO THEIR FRIENDS ARE (LIBYA, ALGERIA AND NIGERIA),
AND IT KEEPS MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OFF BALANCE, HUMBLE AND
SUBSERVIENT. AT THE SAME TIME THE LETTER MANAGES TO GIVE A
BOOST AND A WARNING TO SEKOU TOURE' S FRIEND PRESIDENT
STEPHENS OF SIERRA LEONE AND ANOTHER BRICKBAT TO PRESIDENTS
SENGHOR AND HOUPHOUET.
TODMAN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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